

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-08-02

Issued at Homer, Friday, June 7, 2002

Effective Date: Saturday, June 15, 2002 12:01 a.m.

Expiration Date: Monday, June 17, 2002
11:59 p.m. Unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens the Ninilchik River from its mouth to the downstream edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, from Saturday, June 15, 12:01 a.m. to Monday, June 17, 11:59 p.m., to king salmon sport fishing. Only king salmon with a healed adipose fin-clip scar may be retained. King salmon with an adipose fin shall not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The daily bag and possession limit is one fish 20 inches or greater in length. Fish 20 inches or greater in length must be recorded on the back of the fishing license or harvest record card. Only unbaited artificial lures may be used.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.022(a)(8) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are in effect:

5 AAC 56.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

(a)(8) That portion of the Ninilchik River from its mouth to the downstream edge of the Sterling Highway bridge is open to king salmon sport fishing from 12:01 am, Saturday, June 15 to 11:59 pm, Monday, June 17. Only king salmon with a healed adipose fin-clip may be retained. King salmon with an adipose fin shall not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The daily bag and possession limit is one king salmon 20 inches or greater in length. Only unbaited artificial lures may be used.

Frank Rue
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Nicole J. Szarzi
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Ninilchik River king salmon sport fishery is supported by wild and hatchery-produced fish. All hatchery king salmon stocked into the Ninilchik River are marked as smolt with an adipose fin-clip and adults are recognized by a healed adipose fin clip scar. From 1999-2001, an average of 600 hatchery-produced kings surplus to egg-take needs spawned in the Ninilchik River. A surplus of hatchery-produced king salmon is projected in 2002 and is available for harvest. Therefore, we are extending this fishery to a fourth weekend to harvest hatchery-produced king salmon that are surplus to egg-take needs.

We do not project that wild king salmon escapement will exceed the escapement goal range of 400 to 850 wild fish by 25 %, so liberalization of harvest on wild fish is unwarranted at this time. To reduce impacts on wild fish, only unbaited artificial lures are permitted and only that portion of the Ninilchik River downstream of the Sterling Highway bridge will be open to fishing.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.